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OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK RUEHRN  
DE RUEHRO #0971 1290954  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
O 090954Z MAY 07  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7952  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2366  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 8623  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2524  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4518

S E C R E T ROME 000971

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STATE FOR ISN/CPI, JENNIFER CHALMERS AND NEA/IR, SEAN MISKO  
TREASURY FOR TFFC, RACHEL LOEFFLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/09/2017

TAGS: [EFIN](#) [KNNP](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [UNAU](#) [IR](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: ITALIAN IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSET FREEZE ON BANK  
SEPAH ROME

REF: A. STATE 60238

[1](#)B. ROME 628

Classified By: Economic Minister Counselor Tom Delare for  
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S) The Bank of Italy (BOI) March 26 sent two  
"provisional administrators" to manage Bank Sepah Rome's  
affairs for sixty days, effectively placing the branch under  
BOI control (Ref B). BOI reported March 27 that Bank Sepah  
Rome is now "an empty box" -- i.e., the branch allegedly has  
no remaining liquid assets, cannot pay its employees, and  
conducts no banking activity.

[1](#)2. (S) A high-level BOI official reported to EcMin April 20  
that the BOI will likely recommend that the Ministry of  
Finance (MOF) appoint a "special administrator" after the  
sixty day period to manage the branch and potentially  
liquidate the branch's assets to pay its outstanding bills.  
Any such action would take place in late May. A BOI  
regulatory official supervising BOI's oversight of Bank Sepah  
Rome confirmed this May 8 and reported no new developments.  
Spogli